

God's Plan for All Creation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 61,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Begin to appreciate all of creation as the gift of God's goodness
- Recognize that God revealed himself in a unique way through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- Define providence as God's loving care for all things
- Describe stewardship as the way we appreciate and use God's gifts
- Examine the gifts of the Earth used in the Seven Sacraments as signs of God's presence and power

Turn to Page 53,
God's Plan for All Creation
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Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Everything you possess and enjoy is a gift from God. To be a Christian, therefore, means learning to live in thankfulness. The more you discover about the awesome complexity of the universe, the more vivid your awareness of God's wisdom and his loving care will become. As your child learns more about these complexities in science, or as new discoveries are reported, remind your child of the vastness and majesty of God as he is the Creator of all the wonders of this world.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Jubilate Deo
- We Sing Your Glory

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: God is so wonderful and so amazing. He deserves our honor and praise. Let's listen to a reading from the Book of Psalms that sings of God's glory and calls us to joyfully worship him.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: All creation gives glory to God—that includes you. The work you do gives glory to God. When you care for creation, you share in God’s plan.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about his/her role in God’s plan.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 54,
God Reveals Himself
Vivos en Cristo, Page 109

Ask: In what ways does God show himself to us in this world?

Tell your child to read aloud the introductory paragraph. Use the Catholic Faith Words definition to review the meaning of **Divine Revelation**.

Have your child follow along as you read aloud the “Learning About God” section. Pause when you get to **Sacred Scripture** and **Sacred Tradition** and use the Catholic Faith Word’s feature to explain these terms.

Look at the illustrations at the bottom of the page and ask your child to tell you what each of them is saying about Divine Revelation. (In the first illustration, Jesus is revealing his Father to the people through his teaching. He is the perfect Revelation of God. The Gospels tell his story. The bishops and Pope in the second picture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, guide us to learn God’s truth in the Sacred Scriptures.)

Turn to Page 55,
In God’s Image
Vivos en Cristo, Page 111

Ask your child to read the four paragraphs out loud. Pause after each paragraph to ask the following questions.

First paragraph: What do you think is God’s most magnificent creation?

Second paragraph: What are some of the marvels in our human bodies?

Third paragraph: How do you show God’s presence in your friendships?

Fourth paragraph: What grade would you give humans in caring for creation? How could we do better?

Turn to Page 56,
Praise God's Work
Vivos en Cristo, Page 113

Review the Catholic Faith Words **providence** and **stewardship**.

Summarize the first paragraph, emphasizing that all of creation was made by God and therefore gives glory to God by simply being. Humanity gives glory to God when we live his will for us.

Ask your child to find Psalm 98 in your Bible. Before reading the Psalm, tell your child that there are many different kinds of psalms, or religious songs, in the Bible.

Explain to them that just as their world is filled with music, music was also a very important part of ancient cultures. Many Psalms were meant to be sung; in fact, they are sometimes described as hymns and references to musical instruments appear within the text.

Share with them that Psalm 98, "The Coming of God," is an enthronement Psalm. It urges listeners and parts of creation to recognize God as their King and to worship him. It proclaims the excitement and joy of the whole Earth over the rule of the Lord in the Kingdom.

Ask your child to read the Psalm with the joy and enthusiasm that is due God!

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to create a simple poem of eight lines that would describe how creation gives glory to God. (i.e. **The thunder claps with a mighty roar/ the clouds get full and the waters pour/ the stream babbles on its merry way/while the fish swim along in the light of day.**)

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to review stewardship. It is important to talk about our responsibility to the environment. At this age, however, it is essential to emphasize your child's responsibility to his/her body. For your child to deepen this understanding, you will need to have on-going conversations. Appreciating her/his body as a gift from God changes the starting point of your conversations about drugs, smoking, exercising, and sexuality as well as a myriad of other topics. Even our relationship to ourselves happens in the context of the relationship that we have with God.*

Turn to Page 57,
Creation and the Sacraments
Vivos en Cristo, Page 115

Have your child silently read the first paragraph. Ask her/him to name some of the gifts from God that are used in the Sacraments. (**water, oil, wheat, grapes**)

Point out that, with the exception of water, all of these substances are gifts from God that have been or can be transformed by human labor. For example, seeds are pressed for oil, wheat is ground for bread, and grapes are fermented for wine.

Read aloud the next two paragraphs.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 58,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 117

Point out the stewardship activity being demonstrated in the artwork on this page. Discuss what is happening.

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph.

Look at the “10 Steps” chart. This chart is so helpful in teaching respect and collaboration that you may want to cut it out and put clear contact paper on it. It would be a wonderful tool to use anytime your family or your children need to work in a group for a common cause.



Read the directions and help your child complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 59,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 119

Read the paragraph about Blessed Hildegard of Bingen.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share some of the places you have been in creation that amazed you.

Turn to Page 61,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.